

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY NOTICES,

FEBRUARY 1st, 1859.

THE MISSION TO THE PACIFIC.

Sixty-eight years ago Mr. Wesley's sons and helpers in the Gospel, nobly itinerating the United States, deemed Canada a portion of the "regions beyond," and generously sent pioneers of approved character and belief, whose sanctified hardihood soon made it apparent that Wesleyan Methodism was adapted in its immutable essentials, and plastic operations and power, to the moral and social condition of the Colony, as it had demonstrated itself to be in other lands; and since then its career—though not without unmerited contumely and opposition—has been continuous, extending, and rapid, and by it Canada has been immensely elevated; that system has become a cardinal institution of the Canadas; hundreds of thousands have attended its ministry in churches, school houses, shanties, and groves; its yearly conversions have been a multitude; churches have been provoked to useful effort; its accredited ministers and agents are more than four hundred; its conference, committees, districts, circuits, missions, book-establishment, periodicals, university, schools, and liberal voluntarism are its irresistible instrumentality; its membership is fifty thousand; and tens of thousands, prepared by its evangelizing care, have died to be glorified, and ascribe unstinted praises to Him who has marvellously made Methodism in a century a blessing to the globe.

In any connexional and faithful annals of Methodism in Canada, there are proceedings and events which for Christ's honour must have pre-eminence. From its present ample and cultured domain its restless vocation, as from the first, is, to explore and refine the rugged and remote territories of redeemed humanity. In 1858, a Wesleyan Mission to the Pacific coast is an event as beautiful as any event in the past, as vitalized in its energies, and in its certain results as disinterested and triumphant.

Much has been already said on the subject of the Mission to BRITISH COLUMBIA, but in this, the authorized organ of the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, a suitable record is due to the present and future patrons of the Society.

Towards the close of last Conference year, the General Superintendent of Wesleyan Missions in Canada addressed a letter to the General Secretaries of the Parent Wesleyan Missionary Society in England, on the importance and necessity of a chain of Missions from Newfoundland to Vancouver's Island, to which publicity was given in the *British Notices*. On the arrival of the President of the Conference from England this year, he at once saw the propriety of immediately deciding on a Wesleyan Mission to the Pacific, and he wrote to the General Secretaries, and the General Superintendent prolonged his correspondence with them on the same subject.